Unit 4 Glossary (WWI)

**1914-1918**- In 1914 World War I began in Europe, triggered when a Serb assassinated the heir to the Austria-Hungary throne. The Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and later Turkey and Bulgaria faced off against the Allies including France, Britain, and later Japan and Italy. President Woodrow Wilson declared neutrality but both the Central Powers and the Allies sought U.S. support. England and France benefited from American products which aided their war efforts, and businessmen in the United States prospered even as anti-German sentiment increased. Trade with the Central Powers was limited because Britain controlled shipping channels in the Atlantic and diverted U.S. ships to British ports. German U-boats (submarines) sank the British passenger liner Lusitania on May 7, 1915, at the cost of 128 American lives. Wilson won re-election in 1916 on the assumption that he would not ask Congress for a declaration of war, but Germany announced its plan to wage unlimited submarine warfare in early 1917 and sank four U.S. merchant marine vessels in March. On April 2, 1917, Wilson asked Congress to declare war. After the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) arrived in France, the German threat increased, and the Allied forces united under French Marshal Foch. By September, General John J. Pershing demanded separate command. The U.S. troops under Pershing participated in the last major offensive of the war, the Meuse-Argonne, which lasted 42 days and involved 1.2 million U.S. troops. In the battle of Argonne Forest, one-tenth of all U.S. troops died in the heavy fighting. Germans surrendered on November 11, 1918. Peace negotiations began late in 1918 and continued into 1919.

**Allies**- In World War I the powers of the Triple Entente (Great Britain, France, Russia), with the nations [allied](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/allied) with them (Belgium, Serbia, Japan, Italy, etc., not including the United States), or, loosely, with all the nations (including the United States) [allied](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/allied) or associated with them as opposed to the Central Powers.

**American Expeditionary Force**- All of the military personnel (the armies, navies, and air forces), equipment and weaponry, medical staff, support and maintenance supplies, and so on sent to the Western front by President [Woodrow Wilson](http://www.answers.com/topic/woodrow-wilson) after his declaration of war in April 1917, under the command of Gen. [John J. Pershing](http://www.answers.com/topic/john-j-pershing). Pershing arrived in Paris in June 1917 to take up his command, two months after the United States had entered [World War I](http://www.answers.com/topic/world-war-i). Although more than two million U.S. troops reached Europe, many arrived too late to see combat. Nevertheless, the AEF had 264, 000 casualties, including 50, 554 killed in battle and 25, 000 by disease.

**Armistice**- A temporary suspension of hostilities by agreement of the warring parties; truce: World War I ended with the armistice of 1918.

**Battle of Argonne Forest**- During World War I, U.S. troops under General John J. Pershing participated in the last major offensive of the war, the Meuse-Argonne, which began on September 26 and ended on November 1, 1918. Over the 42 days, 1.2 million U.S. troops fought to repulse the forces of the Central Powers. The heaviest fighting occurred in the Argonne Forest where one-tenth, or 120,000, of all U.S. troops died due to rough terrain, heavy machine gun fire, and inadequate training.

**Central Powers**- Before World War I, Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary after they were linked by the Triple Alliance in 1882. During World War I, Germany and Austria-Hungary, together with their allies Turkey and Bulgaria.

**Conscientious Objector**- A person who, because of principles of religious training and moral belief, is opposed to all war regardless of its cause.

**Convoy System**- Merchant ships sail in groups protected by an armed naval escort. The system was used to combat threat of unrestricted submarine warfare.

**Great Migration**- The movement of 1.3 million African-Americans out of the South to the North, Midwest and West between 1910 to 1930. African Americans moved to free themselves from racism, and for better opportunities in both education for children and employment and land.

**League of Nations**- A world organization established in 1920 to promote international cooperation and peace. It was first proposed in 1918 by President Woodrow Wilson, although the United States never joined the League. Essentially powerless, it was officially dissolved in 1946.

**Lusitania**- British ocean liner sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland on May 7, 1915. The British Admiralty had warned the *Lusitania* to avoid the area and to use the evasive tactic of zigzagging, but the crew ignored these recommendations. Though unarmed, the ship was carrying munitions for the Allies, and the Germans had circulated warnings that the ship would be sunk. The loss of life1,198 people drowned, including 128 U.S. citizens outraged public opinion. The U.S. protested Germany's action, and Germany limited its submarine campaign against Britain. When Germany renewed unrestricted submarine warfare, the U.S. entered World War I in April 1917.

**Henry Cabot Lodge**- (1850-1924) A senator from Massachusetts, Henry Cabot Lodge supported American expansion as a way to increase national pride, spread civilization, and thereby gain world power. He and Theodore Roosevelt, drawing upon the theories of naval historian Alfred Thayer Mahan, favored the “large policy.” This depended on world trade and ship transport. An American-controlled canal through Central America was necessary as were coaling stations and naval bases in the Pacific, on Hawaii, Guam, Wake Island, and in the Philippines. A strong navy was required to protect the merchant marine as it sailed from North America to the Far East and points in between.

**Mexican Revolution**- (1910-1911) A revolution for agrarian reforms led in northern Mexico by Pancho Villa and in southern Mexico by Emiliano Zapata.

**Militarism**- Glorification of the ideals of a professional military class; predominance of the armed forces in the administration or policy of the state; a policy in which military preparedness is of primary importance to a state.

**Nationalism**- Loyalty and devotion to a [nation](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nation); a sense of [national](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/national) consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other [nations](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nations) or supranational groups.

**John J. Pershing**- (1860-1948) Born in Missouri, John Pershing spent his life in the military. He graduated from West Point in 1886 and was commissioned second lieutenant of cavalry. He fought in the Indian Wars, commanded an all-black unit for a time, taught at West Point, and served as a military observer during the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. He spent nearly a decade in the Philippines and then was sent to Mexico to apprehend Pancho Villa in 1914. In 1917, Pershing was selected to lead the American Expeditionary Force to Europe during World War I. Pershing did not agree with French and British officers who sought to incorporate the U.S. troops into their units. Pershing insisted that Americans fight together. His troops were instrumental in the defeat of the Germans in the Argonne Forest, in the Meuse-Argonne region of France.

**Propaganda**- Information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, [movement](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/movement), institution, nation, etc. The deliberate spreading of such information, rumors, etc.

**Reparations**- Payment in money or materials by a nation defeated in war. After [World War I](http://www.answers.com/topic/world-war-i), reparations to the [Allied Powers](http://www.answers.com/topic/allied-powers) were required of Germany by the Treaty of [Versailles](http://www.answers.com/topic/treaty-of-versailles). The original amount of $33 billion was later reduced by the [Dawes Plan](http://www.answers.com/topic/dawes-plan) and the [Young Plan](http://www.answers.com/topic/young-plan) and was canceled after 1933. In the 1920s German resentment over reparations was used by ultranationalists to foment political unrest.

**Selective Service Act**- (1917) A [national](http://www.answers.com/topic/selective-service-act-1) conscription bill passed by Congress on April 28, 1917, after the U.S. entry into [World War I](http://www.answers.com/topic/world-war-i). It expanded the regular army and allowed for the federalization of the National Guard. It prohibited substitutes and bounties, but allowed for certain deferments. It also included moral reforms prohibiting prostitution and liquor sales to soldiers.

**Treaty of Versailles**- (1919) Allied leaders wrote the Treaty of Versailles, the formal agreement to end World War I. Their challenge was to divide the territory contained in four empires which collapsed at the end of the war: Russia, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Germany. President Woodrow Wilson supported divisions which freed ethnic groups from foreign rule. The treaty established the League of Nations which obliged each country to defend the territory of other member countries. It also charged Germany with responsibility for the war, requiring it to pay reparations to the Allies and stripping the country of all colonies. Because Wilson was unable to secure the support of the U.S. Senate for the treaty, the League of Nations was formed without U.S. involvement.

**Trench Warfare**- Trenches were built during WWI to provide protection from the enemy artillery. Both the Allies and Central Powers constructed elaborate trenches and dugout systems opposing each other. Trenches were protected with barbed wire. The area between the trenches was known as “no man’s land”. The trenches were the domain of the infantry, machine-gun operators, the engineers and the forward positions of the artillery observers.

**Unrestricted Submarine Warfare**- Unrestricted Submarine Warfare is the practice of using submarines to attack and sink all forms of enemy shipping, whether they are military or civilian. When Germany began to use its fledging submarine force for Unrestricted Submarine Warfare in [WWI](http://europeanhistory.about.com/od/worldwar1/p/ww1101.htm), it was quickly condemned by neutral nations, and the U.S. pressured Germany to stop. The German decision to restart Unrestricted Submarine Warfare was an attempt to knock Britain out of the war through a submarine blockade and leading the U.S. to enter the war.

**U.S. As a World Power**- Several factors contributed to the rise of the United States as a world leader. In the 1880s the United States experienced an industrial revolution which allowed the country to compete with Britain for dominance of the world economy. Increased transportation and ports-of-call in major trading areas increased the economic and military strength of the United States around the world. Following World War II, the United States surpassed Britain as a world power. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R) and the United States were considered world powers because their foreign policy impacted world decisions. The United States remains a prominent nation in the world system in spite of a staggering national debt. The U.S. economy is strong, the standard of living is high, and the nation remains a hub of world trade and diplomacy.

**Victory Gardens**- As part of the war effort, the government rationed foods like sugar, butter, milk, cheese, eggs, coffee, meat and canned goods. Labor and transportation shortages made it hard to harvest and move fruits and vegetables to market. So, the government turned to its citizens and encouraged them to plant “Victory Gardens.” They wanted individuals to provide their own fruits and vegetables. Nearly 20 million Americans answered the call. They planted gardens in backyards, empty lots and even city rooftops. Neighbors pooled their resources, planted different kinds of foods and formed cooperatives, all in the name of patriotism.

**Wilson’s Fourteen Points**- (1918) President Woodrow Wilson traveled to Europe to participate in treaty negotiations ending World War I. He sought to reduce the risk of war and believed several adjustments to the method of conducting foreign policy could accomplish this. His suggestions included open covenants of peace with no hidden agendas, absolute freedom of navigation, removal of all economic barriers and support of equal trade, reduction of national armaments, impartial adjustment of colonial claims in the best interest of resident populations, and mutual guarantees of political independence of great and small nations. He also supported the establishment of an association of nations to maintain peace, a world parliament he called the League of Nations. Many opposed his dreams including Americans who favored isolationism, those who lobbied for harsher treatment of the Central Powers, and German-Americans, Italian-Americans, and others who believed the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh on their native lands. All found reason to criticize the treaty. Wilson’s pleas to League of Nations as the only hope for preventing future wars failed to sway the opposition. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge led the critics in the Senate. His reservations to the treaty along with Wilson’s refusal to compromise prevented the treaty from garnering the two-third majority of votes needed for the United States to adopt the measure when it came up for a second senatorial vote on March 19, 1920.

**Woodrow Wilson**- (1856-1924) A [Democrat](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Democrat), he was elected president in 1912 after serving as president of Princeton University and as governor of [New Jersey](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/New%20Jersey). Wilson was president from 1913 to 1921. He tried to keep the United States neutral after [World War I](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/World%20War%20I) broke out in 1914; his campaign slogan in 1916 was “He kept us out of war.” After [Germany](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Germany) had repeatedly violated the neutral status of the United States, the country finally did enter the war in 1917, with Wilson maintaining that “ [the world must be made safe for democracy](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/the%20world%20must%20be%20made%20safe%20for%20democracy).” Wilson produced his aims for peace, [Fourteen Points](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Fourteen%20Points), soon afterward. At Wilson's insistence, the treaty that ended the war provided for a new international organization, the [League of Nations](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/League%20of%20Nations). Wilson was bitterly disappointed when the United States [Senate](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Senate) later refused to permit the United States to join the League. He went on a strenuous speaking tour to convince the American public of the League's importance. While on the tour, he suffered a [stroke](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/stroke), from which he never fully recovered. In 1919, Wilson was awarded the [Nobel Prize](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Nobel%20Prize) for peace.

**World War I**- World War I was a global conflict which began in 1914 and continued into 1918. Allied Powers (Great Britain, France, and Russia) defeated the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary). About 20 other countries assisted the Allied Powers including the United States which entered the war in 1917. The Ottoman Empire (Turkey) and Bulgaria supported the Central Powers. The war was triggered by the assassination of Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Slavic nationalist, but the central issue was the competing nationalism and imperialism among major

European powers.

**Alvin York**- (1887-1964) Known as the greatest (American) hero of World War I, after his platoon had suffered heavy casualties and 3 other noncommissioned officers had become casualties, Cpl. York assumed command. Fearlessly leading 7 men, he charged with great daring a machinegun nest which was pouring deadly and incessant fire upon his platoon. In this heroic feat the machinegun nest was taken, together with 4 officers and 128 men and several guns. York was promoted Sergeant and received the U.S. Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor, the Croce di Guerra of Italy, and the War Medal of Montenegro.

**Zimmerman Note**- A coded message written by German foreign secretary Arthur Zimmerman and sent to Mexican president Venustiano Carranza on January 16, 1917 during [World War I](http://www.answers.com/topic/world-war-i). It proposed a German-Mexican alliance and suggested Mexico reclaim its former territory by starting a war with the United States, thereby distracting the United States from the overseas war. It was published by President [Woodrow Wilson](http://www.answers.com/topic/woodrow-wilson) on March 1, 1917, and the U.S. entered the war five weeks later.